

SECRET

17 Aug 1994

Memo to: C/HRG

Subject: Status of DCI Morning Minutes

Following covers both your questions and Bob Eater's notes on a number of items. Per Jim Pittman, he did not follow up on Eater's questions.

C/HRG questions:

1. 10 Aug 1976 - DCI Bush's letter re meeting with Senators Baker and Inouye. FYI copy faxed to OCA (contact Susan McMains, 37912)

2. 24 Aug 1976 - per Office of Security, protect Michael Merhige; retired in cover status, was NOC in Vietnam.

3. 12 Nov 1976 - The David Wise book mentioned in the Minutes deals with the bugging of the Chilean Embassy in Washington, not the Kennedy assassination. Recommend we drop the item as not related. The note on the page is Eater's. (copy attached)

4. 28 June 1976 - Re the copyright question; Eater says to postpone the item until the Board makes a ruling. The law is silence on copyright issue. We will describe the document on the withdrawal sheet so researched can request directly from CBS.

6 & 7 3 March/25 Sept. 1978 - Per Office of Security, Vincent Thill and James O'Connell are releasable.

9. Attachment #2 (LBJ Library) - Per Pittman, these documents were Not part of the Morning Minutes file. His staff remembered them from a FOIA; they probably exist somewhere in the DCI files. Do we include as part of this package or assume we will see again when we go to the Presidential Libraries?

Eater's notes (attached):

4 May 1964 - since we are treating "anti-Castro" activities as related, leave the reference to books in.

24 Sept 1975 - Eater is having the cases searched in OGC files for relevance to JFK.

25 Sept 1975 - The New Orleans mail intercept operation was of interest to the HSCA investigation and has been mentioned in our files. The item refers to the Senate Select Committee and it is doubtful if it is JFK related. Eatinger says it is our call.

26 July 1978 (memo for the Record) - Eatinger was not comfortable with our deletion []; he has originally proposed to release. I recommended that we at least delete the word prison. There may not have been many women in prison with that background.

Bany

12 Nov 1976

Falkiewicz noted his expectation that Ron Kessler's article on President Kennedy's assassination will appear in the 14 November Washington Post.

Bolten called attention to today's Washington Post article about David Wise's book (attached) and stated his belief that it contains details which were not included in the Senate's published report. It was agreed that this material was deleted from the Senate report and that Wise's account is correct. In response to the DDCI's query, Bolten stated that we had not had prior word of the Wise book.

* NOT IN FILE
I think this
book refers to
CIA in the JFK
assassination.
What did the
attached article *
say?

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-1

WASHINGTON POST
12 NOVEMBER 1976

ms/Ram

FBI Bugging Of Chilean Offices Told

Book Says Hoover Forced CIA to Halt Surveillance in '72

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI reluctantly bugged the Chilean Embassy in Washington during the Salvador Allende regime and then forced the Central Intelligence Agency to agree to end the surveillance, according to a forthcoming book about the U.S. intelligence community.

The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover stopped the bugging in February of 1972 by threatening to tell Congress that it was being done at the CIA's insistence, author David Wise reports.

According to the account in Wise's new book, "The American Police State":

Hoover initially refused to install the eavesdropping equipment when the CIA first requested it in mid-April of 1971. A few days later, however, then-CIA Director Richard Helms went over Hoover's head and got Attorney General John N. Mitchell to reverse the FBI director's decision.

The CIA delivered sophisticated bugging equipment to the FBI three days later, and between April 27 and mid-May, the FBI got into the embassy and installed several mikes.

For more than eight months, the government listened in to conversations taking place inside the embassy, Wise reported. The Chilean ambassador to the United States at the time was Orlando Letelier, who was assassinated here Sept. 21, 1976, when a bomb blew up the car he was driving a short distance from the embassy building.

Around early February of 1972, Hoover threatened to blow the whistle. The FBI director may have been "still smarting over being reversed by Mitchell," Wise wrote, but he added in a telephone interview that he did not know why Hoover chose to give the ultimatum when he did.

In any case, Wise said, citing CIA documents about the episode, the CIA caved in promptly and hastily asked that the eavesdropping be stopped. Accordingly, On Feb. 3, 1972, "the FBI either went in and pulled out the miniature transmitters or turned them off by remote control."

Hoover died on May 2, 1972. Less than two weeks later, on the weekend of May 13-15, the Chilean embassy was burglarized in a crime that persistent rumors have attributed to one or more of the Watergate burglars but that still remains unsolved.

In its investigation of the embassy break-in, the book discloses, the FBI was unable to question a potentially important witness in Miami who had reportedly told an FBI informant that one of the Watergate burglars was involved. The potential witness, a Cuban exile in Miami, was murdered in the spring of 1974, apparently shortly after the bureau had set out to question him but before they managed to locate him.

According to Wise, the Chilean embassy was not only burglarized but it was also bugged once again after Hoover's death. According to CIA documents, he said, the agency asked the FBI to "reinstitute coverage" on Dec. 8, 1972, a step that the State Department also "strongly urged."

This time, the Hoover-less FBI apparently complied without protest. By the day after Christmas, 1972, the

bugs were broadcasting again although there is some evidence," Wise writes, "they may have been turned off or removed again in February 1973."

Voicing some skepticism about the apparent lack of any electronic surveillance for some 10 months in 1972, Wise added that "the chronology is almost too good to be true, for it has both agencies messing around with the Chilean embassy at almost every time except several months on either side of the May 1972 date."

The President of Chile during the period in question, Salvador Allende, was a Marxist whose 1970 election the CIA had tried to block on President Nixon's orders. The plan failed, but the CIA spent \$8 million between 1970 and 1973 to undermine Allende. He died in a military coup that brought down his government in September, 1973.

In other disclosures, the book quotes former Nixon White House aide John D. Ehrlichman's vivid recollections of an Oct. 1, 1969, dinner at Hoover's home that Nixon attended along with Ehrlichman and Attorney General Mitchell.

That night, Wise said Ehrlichman told him, "for hours, Hoover regaled us with stories of 'black bag' jobs, hair-raising escapes, and so on. 'Wonderful,' the President kept saying. 'How about that, John?'"

CONFIDENTIAL

1 May 1964

do we know
whether either of
these books alleged
a CIA connection
to JFK's death?
If yes, responsive,
if not or don't know,
not-responsive

DCI noted high-level concern about the book on the "Bay of Pigs" and the book on the "Invisible Government".

DCI noted an opinion that the book by Thomas Buchanan about President Kennedy's assassination seems to be receiving wide accreditation in Europe.

24 Sept '75

Warner referred to Justice's willingness to retain counsel for Angleton and Ober and stated that he is drafting a letter for the Director to send to Justice on the legal representation in both civil and criminal cases.

J- If these
cases aren't
related to
JFK assassination
-delete

DO NOT
KNOW

Berend called attention to a false story carried in the 23 September Baltimore News American alleging that working levels of the CIA were aware two months before the JFK assassination that Oswald planned to kill President Kennedy but did not report this information up the line. General Walters asked Berend to draft a statement of denial for public release.

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

25 Sept 75

✓ Blake reported that the Senate Select Committee intends to talk to Treasury officials re possible Customs involvement in the New Orleans mail intercept activity.

J If this isn't
JFK-related,
just chinch-Pike,
delete

Asker

✓ The Director referred to the CIA/Oswald story carried in the 23 September Baltimore News American and asked that in lieu of issuing a press release an appropriate letter to the paper be prepared (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 24 September).

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

26 July 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 26 July 1978

The Director was on leave; Mr. Carlucci was testifying on the Hill; Mr. Blake chaired the meeting.

Mr. Blake asked Hetu to explain the disturbing ABC story emanating from Havana. Hetu said that ABC reporter Reynolds called him and said that as part of Cuba's 26 July celebration, a double agent will march in a parade and appear at a press conference, saying that CIA tried to prove that Cubans were involved in President Kennedy's assassination. Castro also plans to announce CIA activities in Africa to track the Cuban presence there. Hetu told Reynolds that he hesitated to comment at the present time but the charge regarding the Kennedy assassination was ridiculous.

McMahon summarized an FBI report that a Cuban Intelligence Service official has been in contact with an unidentified journalist in connection with the World Youth Festival now taking place in Cuba. The journalist stated that the festival will include a tribunal that will condemn CIA activities throughout the world. It will also reveal the above-mentioned charge that the CIA tried to prove Cuban involvement in President Kennedy's assassination. Former CIA agents will be revealed as well as proof of CIA activities in Africa. This report also mentioned that a press conference will be held.

Greaney (for OGC) added that on 21 July an OGC representative paid off a former agent in New York who had been in prison in Cuba. She had been a member of the original 26th of July Movement and seemed to have become extremely radical and bitter. Greaney said that he would not be surprised if this individual appeared at any of the above-mentioned activities. →?

OGC:
LAST ENTRY-
TAKE OUT?

(No)
rfe

8

To: John P.

Responses to your questions on DCI Morning Meeting Minutes

1. Chuck does not see the need to coordinate DCI Bush's memo to DDCI; however, it does contain comments by Senator Inouye. If we want to cover all bases, I can contact OCA. *yes*
2. We assume Merhige is an Agency employee and should be protected. We do not recognize his name. *✓*
3. The reference to Wise's book would constitute "official acknowledgment". It will require a bit of research to determine what they were referring to.
4. Re copyright issue, still waiting on Etinger to get back to me. *✓*
5. the comments on de Morenschildt's mental state was released in the Oswald 201. *✓*
6. Vincent Thill retired overt (see attached card); I am also checking with OS. *✓*
7. James O'Connell was exposed in Peter Wyden's Bay of Pigs; I am checking with OS. *✓*
8. Regis Blahut - released in JFK material; we coordinated with SO at the time. *✓*
9. Re LBJ Library document, I will check with Pittman. *✓*

Barry, Chuck

JH

8/8/94

DCI Morning Meeting Minutes

In general, the documents look ready to be released as is. But the following points occur to me:

1. 10 Aug 76 Bush memo to DCI
- Should we coordinate with FBI? Corgan?
2. 24 Aug 76 Michael Meskige deleted
- Who is he?
3. 12 Nov 76 Reference to wire & book being
correct
- Not sure why we delete this(?)
4. 28 Jan 76 Costigan's print on copyright
- Barry, please call Costigan on this.
5. 30 Aug 77 de Moreschilt "not of a stable mind"
- Should we protect? (privacy?)
6. 3 Mar 78 Former agency employee Vincent Shell
- Should we protect?
7. 25 Sep 78 Retired OS employee James O'Connell
- Should we protect?
8. 18 Jan 79 OS officer Roger B..
- Has this name been released?
9. LBJ Library, 26 Nov 63, Item 7.
- Seems more of a White House matter, not CIA(?)

THILL, Vincent J. *overt*

Security Control Staff/I&S, Feb 1952

EOD: 5 Mar 1951

DOB: 7 July 1914

COB: 9-30-68

Block removed from

EOD ~~5-6-67~~ per

memo 3-6-67

James D'Conno
Patricia